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1104 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration
 SUBJECT : Murphy Commission Discussion with
 Post Office Department

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1. On 4 November 1974 I talked with [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] who advised that he had met with Mr. Harris of the Murphy Commission on 3 November. He had queried Mr. Harris as to why he was interested in talking with the Post Office Department and told him we learned of his meeting with the Post Office Department from Mr. Cotter, who was interested in establishing bona fides for Mr. Harris.

2. Mr. Harris advised that he had read the Intelligence Advisory Committee report which was prepared in June 1970. This Committee was headed by J. Edgar Hoover and Mr. Helms served on the Committee. The report that came out as a result of the Committee's efforts became known as the Huston Report and it referred to postal intercept. The document was surfaced by John Dean during the Watergate hearing. Mr. Harris indicated that his review of this report stemmed his interest in talking to the Post Office Department.

3. Another reason Mr. Harris wanted to talk to the postal inspectors concerned the Special Prosecutor's office. The Special Prosecutor's office informed Mr. Harris that they had had many complaints that the Administration might be illegally using the Post Office to gain information they wanted. The Special Prosecutor's office did not pursue this but this also peaked Mr. Harris' interest in the Postal Inspector's office. According to [redacted] Mr. Harris was concerned that if there was a scandal on postal surveillance, this might have an adverse effect on the Intelligence Community. 25X1

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4. [redacted] advised that he thought that was somewhat afield from the objectives of the Murphy Commission. Mr. Harris said he thought it was probably on the periphery and agreed to drop this particular subject from the Murphy Commission work. He said that he would plan to visit with postal officials, however, because of his interest in this area.

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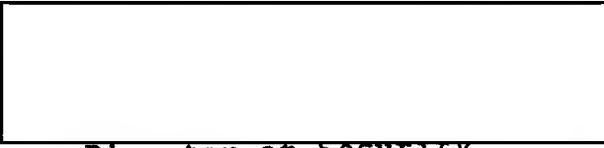
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5. It was agreed that I would brief Mr. Cotter of the Post Office on these developments. On 4 November I contacted Mr. Cotter and explained Mr. Harris' interest in talking to them. Mr. Cotter said that he would have absolutely no problem with this and in fact he had been through this issue many times. He felt that he could be helpful to Mr. Harris now that he understood his interest. He also indicated that he would contact me and brief me on the results of their meeting.

6. From the above, it would appear there is no particular concern with Mr. Harris' visit to the Post Office Department. If I learn of anything significant in this area, however, you will be advised.


Director of Security

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